

## Towns and Commerce

SG  
#18

(Above) Mobile was the largest and wealthiest city in Alabama. Mobile City Hall was the center of much activity.

#1 Right There? (T, Read #1) What prevented small group towns from growing into large commercial centers?

Ask  
#1

Plantation owners usually ordered their goods directly from a **broker** in a large town like Mobile or New Orleans. This prevented small towns from growing into large **commercial** centers. But Alabama did have numerous small towns that provided goods and services for people. Merchants owned stores, and there were taverns and inns where travelers could sleep and eat. Often there was a small **millinery** shop where ladies could buy new hats or lace, feathers, and ribbons to re-trim old hats. There were doctors but no hospitals. Medicines were sold in the general dry goods store.

SG#12

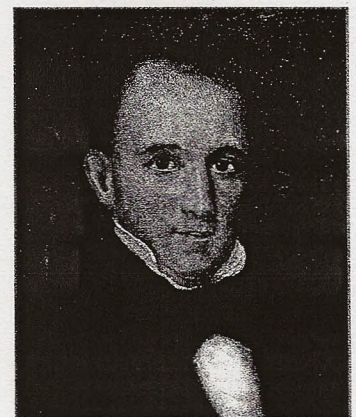
~ In each county, one town was designated the **county seat**; the **courthouse** was located there. People came to the courthouse to record, or write down and document, **deeds** and legal papers. Lawyers settled in the county seat to provide legal services for people. Merchants opened stores and ordered goods from Europe or northern cities. These supplies came up the river from Mobile or over roads by wagons or **stagecoaches**.

Ask  
#2

3 Mobile was the largest town at this time. Its seaport was busy with ships sailing out across the world with Alabama cotton. Other ships sailed into the bay loaded with merchandise. They also brought people to make their homes in Alabama or to transact business. Montgomery, the capital after 1846, was the second largest town in Alabama.

Ask  
#3

#2 We Do (Author & Me) Choral Read  
Why do people go to the Courthouse?  
#3 You Do (Partner Read) What type of merchandise do you think the ships brought in to AL?



(Above) Governor Arthur Bagby served from 1837 to 1841.